

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-05  
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 OPIC-03  
XMB-02 FEA-01 IO-13 (ISO) W  
-----085261 222127Z /46

R 181943Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3848

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 1232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON NS

SUBJ: CARIBBEAN TASK FORCE - TRADE ISSUES

REF: STATE 265255

1. SURINAM, WHICH EXPORTS VERY LITTLE OTHER THAN THE  
BAUXITE, ALUMINA, AND ALUMINUM WHICH ARE THE BASIC  
SUPPORTS OF ITS ECONOMY, HAS NOT TAKEN AN ACTIVE ROLE  
IN THE MTN NEGOTIATIONS AND IT IS NOT LIKELY TO MAKE  
MANY REQUESTS--IF ANY--IN GENEVA.

2. ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, GOVERNMENT OF SURINAM (GOS)  
OFFICIALS AND BUSINESSMEN HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT  
U.S. TARIFF BARRIERS TO VARIOUS TYPES OF TROPICAL  
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HARDWOODS AND DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS INCLUDING PLYWOOD  
AND PARTICLEBOARD. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT THE  
REAL REASONS SURINAM FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO SELL SUCH  
PRODUCTS IN THE U.S. MARKET ARE THE RELATIVELY HIGH  
COSTS OF EXPLOITATION OF ITS FORESTS AND THE  
PRODUCTION OF WOOD PRODUCTS. WE WOULD,  
THEREFORE, NOT URGE THE TASK FORCE TO INCLUDE THESE

TYPES OF PRODUCTS IN ITS STUDY OF U.S. OBSTACLES  
TO CARIBBEAN TRADE UNLESS THEY ARE OF INTEREST TO  
OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AS WELL.

3. WHEN A PUERTO RICAN TRADE MISSION VISITED SURINAM  
IN JUNE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER BRUMA MADE A  
GENERAL REFERENCE TO TARIFF AND OTHER TRADE BARRIERS  
WHICH HELD DOWN THE LEVEL OF SURINAM'S EXPORT TO  
PUERTO RICO (FOR EXAMPLE, LUMBER AND PLYWOOD),  
WHICH WERE AS HIGH AS \$300,000 IN 1969 BUT WERE ONLY  
ABOUT \$8,000 IN 1973, THE LAST YEAR FOR WHICH FIGURES  
ARE AVAILABLE. THERE WAS NEVER ANY FOLLOW-UP ON THE  
PART OF THE GOS, HOWEVER, AND ALTHOUGH WE HAVE  
RECENTLY ASKED THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FOR  
SPECIFIC DETAILS, NONE HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING.  
NONETHELESS, WE ARE PROMISED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
AND WILL FORWARD IT IF IT IS RECEIVED. ZURHELLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE, BRIEFING MATERIALS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** ECON, NS, MTN  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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